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Nicholas Lerangis
477 Archer Street
Freeport, NY 11520

January 21, 2003

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Federal Commission Chairman Michael Powell
445 12th St. SW
Washington DC 20554

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Dear Chairman Powell,

Why are the Baby Bells subsidizing politically spawned competitors to nibble away at their shrinking local dialing business and their stillborn broadband business'!

Last year their local dialing shrank **for** the first time **ever** as more person-to-person communication went to wireless, e-mail and instant chat. In Asia, a voice-enabled internet is now stealing traffic from traditional phone carriers. Soon it will happen here.

The Baby Bells, prior to the Telecommunications Act of **1996**, were regulated monopolies requiring tariff approvals for their pricing schedules. State and Federal regulators played key roles in deciding the schedules. This served and protected customers **from** the unregulated, everchanging, and perplexing pricing schemes — features the customer may not need.

Since 1996, hundreds of upstart local companies have been created. The CLEPs were a conscious creation of public policy, and their demise an inevitable consequence **of** industrial policy run amok. More than half a million telecom workers have been laid off, the most in any industry, and once-great companies have been severely hampered. The Baby Bells subsidize these remaining CLEPs, some in bankruptcy, to access the Bells' carrier lines at below cost.

I applaud your **effort** to remove certain pieces of network equipment from the bundle that the Bells are required to lease. You will probably get some flak from vested interests, politicians, and venture capitalists.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Lerangis

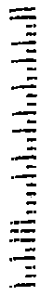
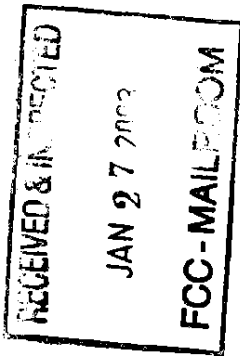
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January 19 2003

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To:

Senator Hollings
Senator Boxer
Senator Feinstein
Senator McCain

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NO. 1000

I got caught **up** in watching the Senate hearings on Telecommunication competition and Broadband last night.

I was struck by the bias against the BOCs demonstrated by many Senators.

I retired from Pacific **Bell** in 1977 after thirty seven years of loyal service.

I worked on open wire leads as a lineman, spliced paper insulated wire, lead covered cables, installed telephones, maintained a variety of central office equipment from manual through dial as a craftsman and after promotion supervised the same operations

So I feel that I made my contribution to the success of the Bell system and to put my money where my mouth is I invested in my company **only** to see my investment shrink significantly and if the current style competition continues the worst is yet to come.

The entire industry contributed significantly to our victory over the Axis powers and without the Bell Labs numerous inventions the war could have been prolonged immeasurably

Over the years I have developed a Bell shaped head and I am pained to see what Judge Green and the Congress have done to an industry that didn't need to **jixed**

Now with the promotion of competition we see property of the BOCs confiscated in violation of Article IV of the Constitution

I called 14 competitive companies listed in **my** Telephone book and here is what I found

4 provided business service **only**

4 provided long distance **only**

3 answered with an answering machine

Sprint advertises local service but doesn't provide it in California

ATT charges \$15.75 per month for residence service

MCI charges \$18.99 per month for residence service

SBC charges \$11.59 per month for residence service

If this **is** the competition you are promoting then I **guess** I have a different view of competition. My dictionary describes a competitor as a "rival" and a rival is defined as one who strives to equal or exceed another in the same object or pursuit.

Seems to **me** that the competition does exceed SBC but in the wrong direction as far as consumers are concerned

The BOCs have spent billions of dollars over the years in the effort to provide reasonably priced service to their customers and now the government, in the name of competition is confiscating a **goodly** portion of their property.

Expenses for maintaining the dial tone sold to the competition is borne by the BOCs and their competitors get off scot free,

*I f you want true competition why don 'l you make the competitors build their own switch and then trunk to the BOCs network. and when one of their customers experience **outside** plant trouble then they should be billed for the repairs performed by the BOC employees*

*As I understood **the** hearings you believe that the competition has **not** achieved your goals. Already the B O G are finding it tough sledding to make a fair profit with the result **that** many allied businesses are in the same boat because **&** the BOCs reluctance to invest in plant improvements. And even worse thousands of loyal dedicated employees have lost their jobs and retirees are seeing their benefits slowly hut surely eroded because **&** dwindling BOC income*

*I certainly hope that your deliberations give high priority **to** the problems outlined in the foregoing paragraph*

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Louis T. Marracci". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial "L" and a long, sweeping underline.

Louis T. Marracci

*3140 Old Tunnel Rd
Lafayette CA 94549*



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